

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT

TOPIC Troops and Military Installations around Ostrava

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 28 July 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED

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1. Prior to early March 1954, about eight canvas-covered guns, which were generally called AA guns, were usually observed in the barracks installation near Hranecnik (P 50/O 58). Six prime movers and two caterpillar tractors, which could be used as personnel carriers, were also observed. The number of soldiers in the installation was estimated at 300 to 400 men who wore khaki uniforms. No muzzle brakes were observed on the guns.
2. In late 1953, about 12 long-barreled guns were observed in the barracks installation near Hranecnik. After September 1953 the number of guns increased from about six to about twelve. Four other guns of a smaller caliber were also observed. The troops stationed at the installation were estimated to be three or four batteries.<sup>1</sup>
3. Prior to early March 1954, it was observed that the guns in the barracks installation near Hranecnik were towed by prime movers, which were half-track vehicles on which the crews could ride. In January and February 1954, excavation work was done east of the barracks area.<sup>1</sup>
4. In the second half of February 1954, numerous shed-like motor-vehicle garages, in front of which trucks and other motor vehicles were usually parked, were observed in the hutment south of Ostrava, in the wooded area on the west side of the road from Habreh nad Odrou (P 50/O 58) to Staba Bela (P 50/O 58). Numerous worn-out vehicles were observed at this site. About 200 soldiers who wore khaki uniforms were observed during basic training in the hutment area, which had about 30 huts. An obstacle course was located near the billets. No heavy weapons or armored vehicles were observed.<sup>2</sup>

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5. The soldiers observed in the barracks installation near Hranecnik were khaki uniforms with red-bordered black epaulets. The guns parked in the yard were usually covered with canvas and included a heavy and a light model. In late 1953, trucks and Skoda prime movers were observed in the barracks area.<sup>1</sup>
6. Czechs said that the former Kuncice (P 50/O 53) castle housed an StB school for political commissars. The total of students was estimated at 200 to 250 men, who wore mainly red, but also green epaulets. The military ranks of the trainees observed ranged from sergeant to senior lieutenant.<sup>3</sup>

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Comment. The barracks installation is located between Hranecnik and Kadvanice on the secondary railroad line to Karvina. Several previous reports stated that AA artillerymen were quartered in the installation. From the present information, it is concluded that an AAA regiment of four or five batteries is presumably stationed there. Since other AAA units are reported as stationed at various other installations in the Ostrava area it is believed that all these units belong to an AAA division of the home air defense system.

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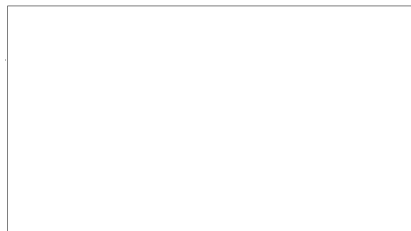
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Comment. Previous reports indicated that this installation housed an army officers' school and a collecting point for worn-out army motor vehicles.

Comment. A previous report stated that a political officer's school of the Interior Guard was located there.

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